capped for want of funds and accommodation. Their cry for help falls deaf on the ears of the Government, if it has any ears to hear. It will be a national calamity, if the Government will allow these systems to die on account of starvation.

Sanitation and Conservancy.

The next item that I wish to touch upon is *Sanitation and Conservancy*.

This, in rural areas, will take care of itself, without much effort on the part of the Government. In towns, and especially where there are Municipalities, the burden is thrown upon them. These bodies are not at present allowed to function properly. The Government is not prepared to contribute anything to their funds. Still, the Government will not allow them to utilise these funds at their disposal in the manner they think best. There is a tight hold placed on them by the Government. The growth of these institutions as self-governing bodies is prevented. These bodies, I know, have not sufficient funds at their disposal to discharge the important functions entrusted to them, the most important of them being maintenance of roads and construction of roads. The Government thinks that these bodies should tax the people, and thus meet their requirements. This policy is erroneous. The Government must give them substantial help by way of contributions or even long—term loans carrying low rate of interest. The Government should only exercise the power of mere supervision. Take for instance the condition of Ernakulam roads and drainage. The state of affairs is far from satisfactory. When the roads were handed over to the Municipality, the Government had promised to give a substantial amount for their maintenance every year. For a few years, the promise was kept up. But, gradually, this policy underwent a change, until at last the Municipality is now told that they should not expect any help from the Government. This is cruel.

Public Works.

It is high time, Sir, that the Department sees that more money is spent for communications, original and maintenance, than for buildings generally. There are many places in the State, where means of communications are urgently needed. In many of the small islands, such as Panambukad, Mulavukad, Kothad, etc., there are no roads at all. The inhabitants of those places derive no benefit worth the name for the cess they pay. We want bridges very badly in many places. Government have to think of that.

Again for some years to come, the Public Works Department will devote its attention to the irrigation problem of the whole State. Much has to be done in this direction. We

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